H. I. ELSON.

SHOE COUNTER PROTECTOR.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 21, 1909.

996,914.

Patented July 4, 1911.

Fig. 1.

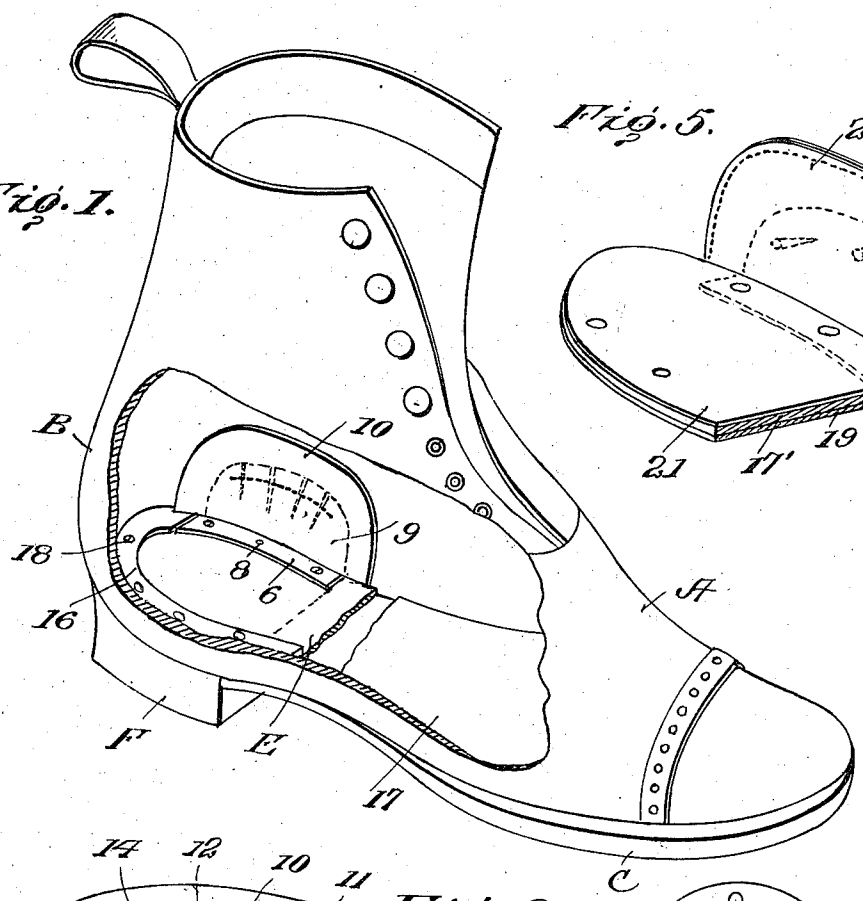



Fig. 5.



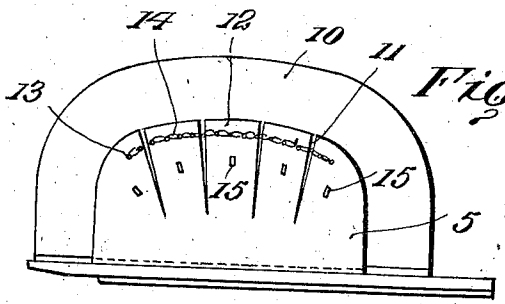




Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

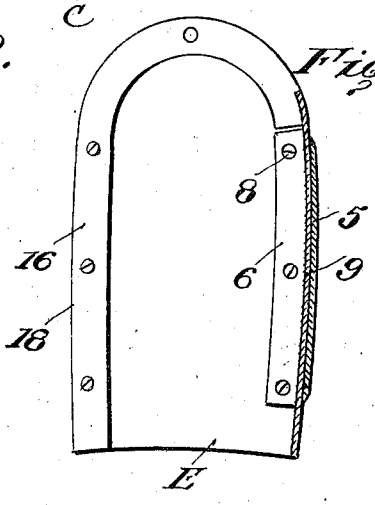
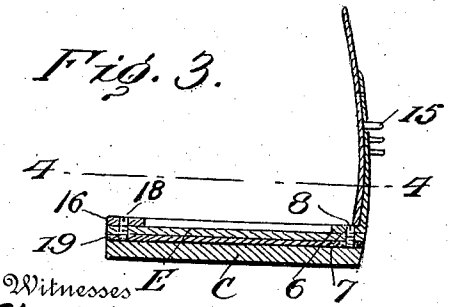



Fig. 3.




Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SHOE-COUNTER PROTECTOR.

996,914. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 4, 1911.

Application filed December 21, 1909. Serial No. 534,363.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERMAN I. ELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jeffersonville, in the county of Clark and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Counter Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoes and more particularly to a stiffener or support for the counters thereof.

The object of the invention is to provide a comparatively simple and inexpensive device of the character described, capable of being positioned on either the right or left side of a shoe, and which serves to reinforce and strengthen the counter and prevent turning of or uneven wear on the heel of the shoe.

A further object of the invention is generally to improve this class of devices so as to increase their utility, durability and efficiency.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the following description, it being understood that various changes in form, proportions and minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe provided with a counter support or stiffener constructed in accordance with my invention, a portion of the shoe being broken away to more clearly illustrate the invention; Fig. 2 is a side view of the supporting plate and its associated parts; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a top plan view partly in section. Fig. 5 is a perspective view partly in section illustrating a modified form of the invention.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The improved counter support forming the subject matter of the present invention may be used in connection with different styles of foot wear and by way of illustration is shown applied to a shoe of the ordinary construction, in which A designates the vamp, B the counter, C the outer sole, E the inner sole, and F the heel.

The device comprises a plate or support 5 preferably segmental in shape, as shown and slightly concavo-convex in cross section to conform to the shape of the counter B. The lower edge of the plate 5 is bent laterally at substantially right angles to the body of said plate to form an attaching flange 6 having a series of openings 7 formed therein for the reception of screws or similar fastening devices 8, by means of which the support or stiffener may be secured in position on the inner sole E. Bearing against the inner or concave face of the plate 5, is a pad 9 also preferably of segmental formation and of sufficient length or height to extend beyond the peripheral edge of the plate 5, thus to form a yieldable flange 10 which bears against the leather constituting the counter B and to assist in preventing the upper edge of the metal constituting the plate 5 from cutting or marring said counter. The upper edge of the plate 5 is preferably formed with a plurality of spaced incisions 11 defining intermediate spring tongues 12, the upper ends of the tongues 12 and the adjacent portions of the plate 5 being pierced by a plurality of openings 13 to permit the passage of a cord or thread 14, the latter serving to retain the pad 9 in position on the plate 5. If desired, brads or similar fastening devices 15 may be driven through the plate 5 and into the counter B to assist in retaining the supporter or stiffener in position on a shoe. The spring tongues 12 allow the upper edge of the plate 5 to yield slightly when subjected to the weight of the foot in the act of walking and thus prevent galling or rubbing of the skin.

A curved filling strip 16 is positioned on the upper surface of the inner sole E, said filling strip being preferably of the same thickness as the flange 6 and extending from that side of the shoe opposite one end of the flange 6 to the other side of the shoe and in contact with the other end of said flange 6, thus to afford a smooth continuous bearing surface for a removable insole, indicated at 17. The filling strip 16 is detachable and

secured in position on the upper surface of the inner sole E by screws or similar fastening devices 18.

A reinforcing plate 19, formed of metal or other suitable material, is preferably interposed between the inner sole E and the upper lift of the outer sole C, there being a plurality of openings formed in the reinforcing plate 19 and registering with the openings in the inner sole E and the openings of the flange 6 and filling strip 16 to permit the passage of the adjacent fastening devices.

It will be noted that both the supporter 5 and filling strip 16 are reversible so that by removing the fastening devices 8 and 18, the plate or supporter 5 may be detached from one side of the inner sole and positioned on the other side thereof and vice versa, so as to permit the device to be used either as a right or left hand supporter. It will of course be understood that when the position of the plate or supporter 5 is changed, that is to say, moved from one side of the shoe to the other, the filling strip 16 will also be changed so that a smooth bearing surface is provided for the detachable insole regardless of the position of the plate or supporter within the shoe.

In Fig. 5 of the drawing, there is illustrated a modified form of the invention in which the upper edge of the supporting plate 5′ is riveted to the pad 10′, as indicated at 20, instead of being fastened thereto by stitching. In this form of the device, the attaching flange 6′ is extended below the metallic reinforcing plate 19′, while the exposed faces of both the pad 10′ and removable insole 17′, are covered with soft leather 21 so as to present a yieldable surface to the foot and thus render the device comfortable to the wearer.

It will of course be understood that the insole and pad of the support shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing may be covered with soft leather or other suitable material, if desired, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. The combination with a shoe, of a reversible concavo-convex supporting plate having its upper edge provided with spaced incisions defining spring tongues and its lower edge bent laterally to produce an attaching flange for engagement with the inner sole of the shoe, a pad bearing against the concave face of the plate, fastening devices passing through the pad and tongues for securing the pad in position on said plate, and a reversible filling strip resting on the insole of the shoe and forming a continuation of the attaching flange.

2. The combination with a shoe, of a reversible concavo-convex supporting plate having its upper edge curved and its lower edge bent laterally to produce a flat attaching flange for engagement with the inner sole of the shoe, a flat reinforcing plate interposed between the inner and outer soles of the shoe and extending the entire width of the heel thereof, a pad bearing against the concave face of the plate and having its lower edge engaging the upper surface of the attaching flange and its upper edge extended beyond the outer edge of the supporting plate to form a yieldable flange of uniform width, a reversible perforated filling strip resting on the insole of the shoe and forming a continuation of the attaching flange, and fastening devices extending through the attaching flange and perforations in the filling strip and engaging the reinforcing plate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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